

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH
H. SOCCIO

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Joseph Soccio, who passed away on September 19, 2020 at the age of 97. A U.S. Army Air Force and Air Force veteran, loving husband, father, and grandfather, Mr. Soccio will be dearly missed.

In 1941 Mr. Soccio graduated from West Senior High School, as part of the first graduating class. Shortly after, he entered the U.S. Army Air Force, proudly serving his country during World War II. During the War, he served as Crew Chief on a B-24 Liberator Bomber, and attained the rank of Sergeant. After World War II, he went on to re-enlist in the U.S. Air Force, serving his nation again in the Korean War.

Following his military service, Mr. Soccio returned to Central New York to work for Alco Products. He spent 30 years with the company, and led its Mechanical Laboratories Division.

Outside of his work, Mr. Soccio was a man of faith, and a longtime member of St. Alphonsus Church in Auburn. He enjoyed gardening, coaching youth baseball, and was an avid hunter. Most of all, he loved his family deeply. He is survived by his three children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Joseph Soccio. A cherished member of our Central New York community, Mr. Soccio will be deeply missed. I ask my colleagues to keep him and his family in mind as we celebrate his life.

IN HONOR OF THE MEMORY OF
JOSEPH PETERSON

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the esteemed life of a dear friend, Joe Peterson. He will forever be remembered for his tremendous impact on our Wyandotte community, and he will be deeply missed.

Mayor Peterson was a pillar of Wyandotte. Before beginning his career in public service, Peterson was a long-time police officer in the Wyandotte Police Department. Throughout his twenty-seven years with the police force, Peterson held several different positions including undercover officer, detective sergeant, and probation officer. In 2005, Peterson was elected to serve on the Wyandotte City Council and was elected mayor in 2009. Through-

out all capacities, Peterson endeavored to make Wyandotte a better place for all.

Mayor Peterson was a dedicated, compassionate, and effective leader who humbly strove for excellence without seeking praise or recognition for any of his significant accomplishments. As a veteran who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, Peterson knew deeply what it meant to be a committed and loyal fighter. He never stopped caring for others, especially his fellow veterans, and faithfully served his beloved Wyandotte.

Mayor Peterson leaves behind a legacy that will forever endure. He was a true representation of a passionate public servant who was unwavering in his commitment to make Wyandotte a better place. He strove to foster a deep sense of community, and was a steady voice of reason in troubling or challenging times. He encouraged us to see the best in one another and work together for the common good. Undoubtedly, Peterson has left a meaningful impact on the city, and the love he had for Wyandotte will always be remembered. His passing represents a loss to our entire community, but his memory will endure through the countless lives he touched.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Joe Peterson. He was a cornerstone of Wyandotte, and we will forever remember his remarkable life, work, and community impact. May he rest in eternal peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Mr. GIBBS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 due to a previously scheduled doctor's appointment in my home state of Ohio. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 196 and YEA on Roll Call No. 197.

REMEMBRANCE OF MR. VINCENT
GIEDRAITIS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share a remembrance of Mr. Vincent Giedraitis, a member of the "Greatest Generation" from Vernon, Connecticut who passed away at the age of 95 on August 10, 2020. Vin, as he was known to friends and colleagues led an extraordinary life, setting an example of how to really succeed by balancing family, professional success as an attorney, and service to his country at sea in the U.S. Navy.

Vin balanced a long life full of many interests and hobbies with his work, with his val-

ued friendships and his vibrant family life. He was an avid skier and fisherman. He enjoyed tennis, ballroom dancing, boating, golf and making a yearly batch of wild grape jelly. He played, studied and worked with determination and great satisfaction. He graduated from New Britain High School and then served in the Navy as a radar engineer on the U.S. John Bole destroyer in WWII. In the time after the war, he attended Central Connecticut State College and graduated from McGill University with a degree in Philosophy. While at McGill he met the love of his life, Joyce, and they were married for over 70 years. After settling in Connecticut and while raising their family, he went on to earn his Law Degree at the UConn School of Law. He went on to work for IBM, Aetna Insurance, Fuller Brush and then established his own private law practice in Hartford. He became a Public Defender for the City of Hartford and then for the town of Vernon-Rockville.

Madam Speaker, I had a chance to see Vin's work in the Public Defender's Office up close over the years. As a law school intern who worked in the Hartford Superior Court, I helped interview clients and witnesses and assisted him during court hearings and trials. After passing the bar I continued to work with Vin as a public defender myself and in private practice. As most people know, public defenders have to grapple with high caseloads, sometimes difficult clients and limited resources to fully investigate cases. Sometimes public defenders succumb to viewing their role as moving cases along, and not pursuing the fullest defense possible. Not Vin. He took his oath and the constitutional duty under the Sixth Amendment to provide effective assistance of counsel to the fullest degree possible. I saw him press judges and prosecutors harder than they were normally accustomed to in his pursuit of fairness and equal justice. It gave me a true insight into his strong character, which I admired deeply. As friendly and affable a person as he was, he had a spine of steel that was always centered on ethics and compassion.

Madam Speaker, Vin was devoted to his amazing, impressive wife Joyce, their eight children and many grandchildren who all loved him dearly and mourn his passing. Madam Speaker, I would ask the members to join me in honoring the wonderful life and legacy of Vincent Giedraitis.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
NORMA J. LEWIS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late former-Highland Park City Council Member Norma J. Lewis, who passed away in September, 2020.

Above all, Norma Lewis was a public servant and an advocate for the people of Highland Park, Michigan. A resident of Highland

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